

REMARKS

These remarks are directed to the office action mailed September 4, 2008, setting a three month shortened statutory period for response which expired on December 4, 2008. A one month extension request and required fee authorization accompanies this amendment to reset the period so as to expire on January 4, 2009. The office action issued by the Examiner and the citations referred to in the office action have been carefully considered.

Prompt reconsideration is requested in view of the above claim amendments and the following remarks. As indicated, amendments introduce no new matter. Claim 2 has been cancelled and claims 13 and 14 have been added. Claims 1, 3-14 are pending.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 112

Claims 3, 5, 6, and 9-11 have been rejected under 35 USC §112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Claims 3, 5, 6, and 9-11 have been amended to provide further clarification and proper antecedent basis. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3, 5, 6, and 9-11 are now patentable under 35 USC §112.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has stated on page 6 of the September 4, 2008 office action that claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Similarly, the Examiner has stated that claims 11 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC §112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 2 has been incorporated into claim 1 to now be in independent form. New claim 13 has been added, incorporating claim 11 and all the elements of original base claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 13 and the claims dependent therefrom are now patentable.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed and that the application is now in order for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and allowance thereof is courteously solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fee(s) or any underpayment of fee(s), or to credit any overpayments to **Deposit Account Number 50-2638**. Please ensure that Attorney Docket Number 058009-021600 is referred to when charging any payments or credits for this case.

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Respectfully submitted,



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